

INTRODUCTION.

(No. I.)

It will be readily granted, that the task of an Historian is a difficult one, and that because of its being almost impossible to obtain good, and proper information; nor does this always arise from a design to deceive in them, who furnish materials for History; but from an aptness in Men to inform us, not of the facts as they are in themselves, and immediately connected with their circumstances and causes, but of the impressions made upon their minds, by the effects of civil and political conduct. Hence it is, that one Historian is called a Jacobite, and a Tory, and another a Whig, and a friend to his Country, and an impartial writer; when such declarations do not ascertain the real character of the writer, they serve only to inform of what side and opinion He is, whom we hear thus judging, and what are the feelings of his mind. But however difficult the task, the advantage of having even an imperfect History is so great as to be a sufficient counterpoise, and determine them, who have it in their power, to inform their Country, as fully as they can. And this it is that hath prompted me to undertake to give an account [v] of what has been called the Regulation in North-Carolina.

I Have no fondness, with Authors in general, to preface the Work, by telling the reader, that he has nothing to expect, that I am engaged in other Avocations, &c. Because I think that an affront to Men's understandings, and is in other words saying, that the Book is not worth a reading. I intend to do the subject all the Justice I can, and leave all to judge of the merit of the Work for themselves.

I Will also let the reader know my authority. I have, in my Hands, an account of all the affairs in Orange-County, in which place the Regulation has made the most noise. It was written by one who speaks thus of himself, viz. "The truth of the whole cannot be denied; but if it should, this I am sure of, that I never can be convicted in myself, wilfully and knowingly, either of having concealed a truth, or of setting forth an untruth. And likewise, that I have been so well acquainted with the whole affair, that I think